

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please add the following abstract section as a section commencing on a separate sheet following the claims.

ABSTRACT

Apparatus for holding a catheter bag is generally depicted at (1), and comprises a first lower component (2), second upper component (5), indicator means (12) and attachment means for the catheter bag (8). The upper component is adapted to move relative to the lower component as the contents of the catheter bag increase or decrease, and this activates the indicator means which acts as a warning that the contents of the bag require emptying or changing.

Please replace the stated paragraph(s) within the specification with the following correspondingly-numbered paragraph(s).

[0036] Referring firstly to FIG. 1, the apparatus for holding a medical bag such as a catheter or drip bag is generally depicted at 1. The apparatus comprises a first lower component 2, which in the depicted embodiment is comprised of a hollow tubular, mounted on a base 3. The base 3, supports the apparatus and may also have feet 4 to improve grip. The feet may be manufactured from a rubber material. A second upper component 5 is also comprised of a hollow tubular. In the depicted embodiment the lowermost part of the upper component is inserted or positioned in at least the uppermost part of the lower component 2. At least the lower portion of the upper component is generally smaller in diameter than at least the upper portion of the lower component and as a result the upper component can move relative to the lower component in the direction indicated by arrow A. Both parts 2 and 5 are manufactured from stainless steel, which has advantageous hygienic properties. However it is recognised that the apparatus may also be manufactured from other metal materials or plastic. The upper and lower components may be welded or secured by other means which further aids hygiene. The base 3, may be manufactured from aluminium. The components and base may also be coated by a sterile coating to increase hygiene and to allow the apparatus to be moved from ward to ward without the risk of cross infection. The base of the apparatus may optionally have wheels to permit easy movement.

[0045] In the depicted embodiment, the indication means comprises one or more warning lights 12 provided as one or more LED lens. The warning lights are located on the entire

circumference of the tubular component to provide 360° visibility. Three warning lights of red, amber and green, are provided in the depicted embodiment. These will provide an escalating level of warning relating to the contents of the bag. For example, using the Figures given above, at 1600 ml the green light may be activated. At 1700 ml the amber light may be activated and at 1800 ml the red light may be activated. The volume at which the indicator is ~~activated~~activated may be altered as desired. This will give nursing staff an advance indication of how full the catheter bag is. Alternatively, the indication means may be flashing light. The indicating means may also comprise a buzzer or some other audible signal. It will be appreciated that the use of lights or buzzers are particularly beneficial for use at night. The indicator will de-activate once the bag is drained or replaced.

[0047] An indicator means may also be located in a remote location, for example at a nursing station, so that nursing and care staff can monitor all patients within a ward without having to undertake a ward round. This will greatly reduce the time spent by nursing staff monitoring patients, as they will not need to ~~attend~~attend individual beds to check whether individual bags require emptying.